

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 5, 2006. Claims 1 to 6, 9, 10, 12 to 16, 18 to 22, 52 to 54, 58, 59, 61, 69, 71 and 73 to 75 are in the application, of which Claims 1 and 75 are independent.

Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 6, 9, 10, 12 to 16, 52 to 54, 61, 69, 73 and 75 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,832,298 (Sanchez). Claims 2 to 5, 18 to 22 and 71 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Sanchez and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,828,992 (Freeman). Claims 58 and 59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Sanchez and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,498,567 (Grefenstette). Claim 74 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Sanchez and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,658,415 (Brown). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to user interfaces, and more specifically to a user interface apparatus that generates a user interface for a desired device of a plurality of different kinds of devices. Device description data of the desired device is received from the desired device via a network. Functions described in the received device description data are associated with candidates for user interface elements, and a user interface for the desired device is generated by laying out the candidate user interface elements associated with the described functions. The user can then use the generated user interface to communicate with the desired device to cause the desired device to carry out a function. In one aspect of the present invention, a user interface can be generated for any of the plurality of kinds of devices. In this way, the user interface apparatus is able to provide a

user interface based on device description data received from any of the plurality of different kinds of devices.

With specific reference to the claims, independent Claim 1 defines a user interface apparatus for providing user interfaces corresponding to each of a plurality of different kinds of devices. The user interface apparatus comprises a data requestor operable to request device description data of a desired device of the plurality of different kinds of devices. The device description data describes functions that the desired device is capable of carrying out. The apparatus also comprises a receiver operable to receive the device description data of the desired device from the desired device via a network, and an associator operable to associate the functions described in the received device description data with candidates for user interface elements. The apparatus also comprises a generator operable to generate a user interface for the desired device by laying out the candidate user interface elements associated with the described functions by the associator. The generator is common to the plurality of different kinds of devices and is operable to generate a user interface for any of the plurality of kinds of devices. The apparatus also comprises a communicator operable to communicate with the desired device to cause the desired device to carry out a function selected by a user using the user interface generated by the generator.

Independent Claim 75 is directed to a method that generally corresponds to the apparatus of Claim 1.

The applied references are not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of independent Claims 1 and 75, and in particular, are not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of a generator common to a plurality of different kinds of devices and operable to generate a user interface for any of the plurality of kinds of devices (Claim 1)

or a generating step that can generate a user interface for any of a plurality of different kinds of devices (Claim 75).

Sanchez describes a digital copy driver for generating and displaying an adaptive graphical user interface of a current configuration and current capabilities of a network digital copier connected to a local area network. (column 2, lines 31 to 35 of Sanchez). The driver includes a software program called a copier user interface dynamic link library (copier UIDLL) which includes process steps to interrogate a digital copier for its current configuration, status and capabilities. (column 7, lines 45 to 49). Upon instructions from a user at a user's workstation, the copier UIDLL sends a request to a dynamic configuration dynamic link library to interrogate the digital copier to obtain its current configuration and to obtain information relating to the capabilities of the digital copier at that specific time and to return that information to the copier UIDLL. (column 7, line 63 to column 8, line 3). As set out with reference to Figure 7, when a user selects the network digital copier, the copier UIDLL is invoked causing the status of the configuration of the digital copier to be requested by sending a configuration capabilities interrogation via the dynamic configuration DLL to the digital copier and upon return of the requested configuration incapabilities information the copier UIDLL generates a graphical user interface which reflects the current configuration and current capabilities of the digital copier. (column 9, lines 38 to 47).

The system described by Sanchez also enables facsimile transmission. However, when a document is to be a facsimile output, the core printer driver invokes a fax UIDLL which displays a send fax window which provides the user with option menus and subdialogue boxes. (column 11, lines 27 to 42).

Thus, in Sanchez, only the user interface of the digital copier is generated from information obtained from the digital copier UIDLL and the dynamic configuration DLL. When the document is to be transmitted by fax, the dynamic configuration DLL is not used, rather only the fax UIDLL is used so that the fax user interface is generated without any device description data being communicated via a network. Therefore, Sanchez is not seen to disclose or to suggest a generator common to a plurality of different kinds of devices and operable to generate a user interface for any of the plurality of kinds of devices (Claim 1) or a generating step that can generate a user interface for any of a plurality of different kinds of devices (Claim 75). Accordingly, independent Claims 1 and 75 are believed to be allowable.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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